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INFO	LOG-00	MFA-01	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	COME-00
	CTME-00	INL-01	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	WHA-01	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EXIM-01	OIGO-02	E-00	FBIE-00	FBO-01	FRB-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01	L-00	MMP-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSF-01	OES-01	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3125
INFO NSC WASHDC
DIRONDCP WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL
DEA HQS WASHDC
CIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BOGOTA 000963

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD BRAYSHAW
USCINSCOC ALSO FOR POLAD LITT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/01/10
TAGS: EPET, SENV, PTER, SNAR, MARR, ECON, PHUM, ASEC, PINS, CO
SUBJ: A SNAPSHOT OF ARAUCA DEPARTMENT, A FORSAKEN LAND

REFS: A) 99 BOGOTA 9715 B) 99 BOGOTA 2453

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR CURTIS W. KAMMAN. REASONS:

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1.5(B AND D).

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: DURING A JANUARY 28 VISIT TO OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM'S (OXY) CANO LIMON OIL FIELD (ARAUCA DEPARTMENT), SENIOR OXY AND ARMY OFFICIALS DESCRIBED A DEPARTMENT FIRMLY UNDER FARC AND ELN GUERRILLA CONTROL, WITH OIL COMPANY PERSONNEL TIGHTLY RESTRICTED IN THEIR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND THE ARMY EVEN MORE LIMITED IN ITS ABILITY TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF, MUCH LESS ACTIVE COLLABORATION FROM, THE LOCAL POPULACE. A RECENT POLICE WITHDRAWAL HAS LEFT OXY FEELING ALL THE MORE VULNERABLE IN A DEPARTMENT SO SATURATED WITH GUERRILLAS THAT, NOTES THE ARMY, EVEN THE PARAMILITARIES FIND IT EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT TO PENETRATE. THE STEADY RISE OF THE DRUG TRADE (MUCH OF IT GUERRILLA-RELATED) AND OXY'S SEPARATE CONCERN OVER ELN ATTACKS ON OR MANIPULATION OF THE U'WA INDIANS HAS GENERATED SUFFICIENT SUPPORT WITHIN THE COMPANY TO SEEK A GREATER DEGREE OF USG AND GOC ENGAGEMENT THAN IN

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THE PAST. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE FOCUS ON EVEN GREATER NARCO AND INSURGENT THREATS IN SOUTHERN PUTUMAYO DEPARTMENT, ARAUCA IS DESTINED TO REMAIN ONE OF COLOMBIA'S MOST FORSAKEN LANDS. END SUMMARY.

INTRODUCTION

2. (U) A FIFTEEN-MINUTE HELICOPTER RIDE WEST OF ARAUCA CITY OVER NORTHEAST COLOMBIA'S GRASSY PLAINS, LEADS ONE TO OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM'S CANO LIMON OIL FIELD. THIS FIELD, COLOMBIA'S SECOND-MOST PROLIFIC, PRODUCES APPROXIMATELY 125,000 BARRELS OF CRUDE PER DAY AND MILLIONS IN ROYALTIES FOR THE COUNTRY EACH YEAR. WHILE THE INSURGENTS HAVE LARGELY ABSTAINED FROM ATTACKING THE FIELD'S WELLS, PROCESSING AREA AND "CAMP" (WHERE TWO HUNDRED WORKERS EAT, SLEEP, AND WORK), ELN AND FARC GUERRILLAS SABOTAGE THE 772 KILOMETER CANO LIMON-CONVENAS PIPELINE ON A WEEKLY BASIS. SINCE 1986, THESE ATTACKS HAVE SPILLED THE APPROXIMATE EQUIVALENT OF TEN EXXON VALDEZ DISASTERS INTO THE GREATER AMAZON BASIN. SEVEN OF ARAUCA'S EIGHT MUNICIPALITIES ARE CURRENTLY WITHOUT ELECTRICITY DUE TO GUERRILLA ATTACKS AGAINST TRANSMISSION TOWERS. POL/ECONOFF USED THE OCCASION OF A JANUARY 28 VISIT TO CANO LIMON TO DISCUSS CURRENT SECURITY ISSUES, HUMAN RIGHTS, THE DRUG TRADE, GUERRILLAS AND PARAMILITARIES WITH

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WHERE ARE COPS WHEN YOU REALLY NEED THEM?

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3. (SBU) THE FIELD AREA, INCLUDING THE CAMP, IS NORMALLY FORTIFIED WITH THREE HUNDRED SOLDIERS AND 90 POLICE OFFICERS - ALL OF WHOM HAVE RECEIVED HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS. IN THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS, AND WITHOUT ANY OFFICIAL NOTICE, THE POLICE HAVE WITHDRAWN, LEAVING OXY'S PERSONNEL AND INFRASTRUCTURE MORE VULNERABLE THAN EVER. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE ORCHESTRATED THE WITHDRAWAL BECAUSE THE "ARMY WAS JUST STANDING GUARD OVER THE POLICE, WHILE THE POLICE DID NOTHING." COLONEL PINZON, THE ARMY'S POINT OF CONTACT FOR HYDROCARBON COMPANIES, PROMISED [REDACTED] ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO COMPENSATE FOR THE POLICE WITHDRAWAL, BUT THE 18TH BRIGADE HAS NOT DELIVERED. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] IS RELUCTANT TO REALLOCATE HIS FORCES TO SET UP CHECKPOINTS AND PERFORM OTHER POLICE DUTIES.

WANTED: AN NGO OBSERVER

4. (C) ON THE FLIGHT FROM BOGOTA TO ARAUCA, [REDACTED] RAISED THE ISSUE OF CONTINUING U'WA/NGO PROTESTS (REF A) REGARDING OXY'S EXPLORATORY DRILLING IN THE SAMORE BLOCK (GEOGRAPHICALLY PART OF NORTE DE SANTANDER, BUT GEO-POLITICALLY AN ANNEX OF ARAUCA). [REDACTED]

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	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	ASDS-01	EPAE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02

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R 042035Z FEB 00
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3126
INFO NSC WASHDC
DIRONDCP WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
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A FLOURISHING DRUG TRADE?

5. (C) ACCORDING TO [REDACTED]
THE DRUG TRADE HAS TAKEN ROOT IN ARAUCA DURING THE LAST
FEW YEARS. "IN 1996 WHEN OXY FIRST BEGAN USING AIR
SURVEILLANCE [TO HELP PROTECT THE PIPELINE], WE NEVER SAW
ANY DRUG RELATED ACTIVITIES. [REDACTED] NOW
SHOWS US TRUCKS PARKED AT COCA LABORATORIES ON A WEEKLY
BASIS AND CLANDESTINE AIRSTRIPS SPRINGING-UP EVERYWHERE,"
SAID [REDACTED] ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE
GUERRILLAS ARE CONTROLLING CULTIVATION IN THE MIDDLE AREAS

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USCINCSO MIAMI FL
USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BOGOTA 000963

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THE SILVER LINING

9. (SBU) ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] THE SAME FORCES THAT HAMPER THE ARMY'S COUNTER-INSURGENCY HELP KEEP PARAMILITARIES AT BAY. "AN INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP DOING ADVANCE FOR THE PARAMILITARIES WOULD BE QUICKLY IDENTIFIED AND DEAD WITHIN AN HOUR," NOTED [REDACTED] INDEED, SEVERAL PARAMILITARY SUPPORTERS WERE SHOT TO DEATH IN SARAVENA EARLY 1999 WHILE RECOVERING FROM WOUNDS SUSTAINED DURING AN ATTEMPT TO INFILTRATE INTO THE DEPARTMENT.

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COMMENTS:

10. (SBU) OXY INTENDS TO BALANCE GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENRY WITH FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY IN A REGION INCREASINGLY OVERWHELMED BY GUERRILLAS AND NARCOS. GIVEN THE GOC'S FOCUS ON EVEN GREASDUQUUSI%~>`QIA (E.G., SOUTHERN PUTUMAYO
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DEPARTMENT), IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE COLOMBIANS WILL REALLOCATE RESOURCES TO THE AREA IN THE NEAR-TERM. IN OTHER WORDS, ARAUCA IS DESTINED TO REMAIN ONE OF COLOMBIA'S MOST FORSAKEN LANDS, AND OXY'S INVESTMENT AN ISLAND WITHIN IT.

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